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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

McEldowney: PKK's Murderous Activities Cannot be Tolerated -  
Milliyet  
Turkey-US-Iraq to Hold PKK Summit in Washington - Milliyet  
Talat to Greek Cypriots: Let's Open All Ports in Cyprus -  
Turkiye  
Financial Times: Papadhopoulos Sees Turks as a Minority -  
Sabah  
Kurds Flocking into Kirkuk - Milliyet  
Ambush against US Troops in Baghdad: 14 Killed - Sabah  
Freelancer American Vincent Killed in Basra - Aksam  
Ahmedinajad Takes over the Presidency from Khatami - Sabah  
Bush's Support for 'Intelligent Design' Theory Angers  
Secularists - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

30 PKK Offices in Kirkuk - Cumhuriyet  
Journalist Vincent, a Critic of the Shiites, Killed in Basra  
- Cumhuriyet  
Life Gets Difficult for Muslims in Britain - Cumhuriyet  
'North-South' Fight Continues in Khartoum: 20 Killed  
Tehran Steps Back on Nuclear Program - Zaman  
Ahmedinajad: I Will Work for Justice around the World -  
Radikal  
Russian Paper: US to Transfer Uzbekistan Base to Azerbaijan  
- Radikal  
Israel Wants 2.2 Billion USD from US for Gaza Withdrawal -  
Zaman  
Bolton Assumes Post at UN - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Charge McEldowney on US/Turkey, Afghanistan, Terror:  
Turkey's leading mass appeal daily "Milliyet" carries an op-  
ed by the US Ankara Embassy Charge d'Affaires Nancy  
McEldowney, in which the Charge praised Turkish efforts  
alongside the United States in Afghanistan and in the fight  
against global terrorism. 'The United States and Turkey  
joined together to make good on our pledge to the people of  
Afghanistan. Where self-appointed mullahs laid down  
barbaric dictates at the point of a gun, Afghans now are  
served by an elected president and will go to the polls in  
September to elect a parliament,' McEldowney said.  
McEldowney added that the US has struggled together with  
Turkey against the PKK for over two decades. 'We have  
condemned unequivocally the PKK, its leadership, and its  
terrorist activity. And we will continue to do so,' she  
stressed. McEldowney also noted that the US and the  
government of Iraq were determined that a free and unified  
Iraq will not be a base for terrorism directed against any  
country. 'Our three governments - America, Iraq, and Turkey  
- are working toward that end and are committed to achieve  
that goal,' McEldowney emphasized. She praised Turkey's  
'unwavering resolution' in the face of international  
challenges. 'Turkey has sent soldiers into the field in  
Afghanistan. Turkey is training Iraqi soldiers under the  
NATO Training Mission. Turkey is patrolling the  
Mediterranean in the Alliance's Operation Active Endeavor,'  
McEldowney wrote.

Turkey Reiterates Call to US to Ban the PKK: Turkish  
Foreign Ministry (MFA) Spokesman Namik Tan told a weekly  
press briefing that Turkey would continue to call on the US  
and Iraqi officials to immediately close in Iraq all  
organizations having links to the terrorist PKK  
organization. Tan said Turkey considered organizations like  
the Democratic Solution Party in Kirkuk to be 'affiliates'  
of the PKK. Tan noted that Turkey would take the evidence  
proving that those organizations have organic ties with the  
PKK to the US-Turkey-Iraq security summit in Washington.  
Responding to a question, Tan said the opening of a second  
border crossing between Turkey and Iraq would be discussed

among the sides. "Cumhuriyet" reports the Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) Ankara representative Ahmet Muratli as claiming that the PKK-affiliated Democratic Solution Party had 30 offices in Kirkuk, which helped the terror organization in recruiting fighters. Muratli also claimed that the PKK was preparing to open offices in Mosul as well.

**Turkish Police Report on PKK Camps in Iraq:** "Milliyet" carries a classified report drafted by the Turkish Security General Directorate on PKK activities in Iraq. The report was submitted to the interior ministers of Iraq's neighbors at their summit talks held in Istanbul last month. The report says that the PKK has nine camps in northern Iraq and other parts of the country. The PKK leadership is based in the Kandil Mountains where it has an arms cache of five Stinger missiles - registered as NATO property - and heavy weapons, and 100 generators and new model Nissan jeeps. Some 1,000 militants receive missile and explosives training in Kani Cenge and Hineri camps. A total of 9,500 Kurds, mostly refugees and other members of the organization are accommodated at the Mahmur camp controlled by the United Nations. Bodyguards have been trained at the Martyr Ayhan camp in an effort to form special forces, according to the report.

**Iraqi Kurdish Leaders Encourage Return of Kurds:** Kurdish leaders controlling northern Iraq encourage Kurds displaced by the former Iraqi regime to register in Kirkuk and ask for compensation under article 58 of the Iraqi interim constitution, papers report. Reports estimate some 80,000 Kurds have registered in Kirkuk. Iraqi Arabs, the Turkmen, and Turkey have been uneasy with the Kurdish leaders' efforts to incorporate Kirkuk into their autonomous regions, papers comment. The influx of Kurds to the region coincides with the finalization efforts for the new constitution, which is expected to introduce a federal structure in Iraq, say papers.

**Talat Offers the Greek Cypriots Opening of Harbors:** "The old Cyprus cause has been lost. We are now working to formulate a new policy," Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat said before leaving Turkey yesterday. Talat called on President Sezer and PM Erdogan on Tuesday. Talat noted that his predecessor Rauf Denktas had been a hostage to "nationalist rhetoric." Talat said the goal of the new policy was to make the world accept the necessity to establish a bi-zonal federal structure in Cyprus. "Turkiye" claims that Talat had offered the Greek Cypriots a "reciprocal" opening of harbors, saying that Greek Cypriot vessels could be granted access to Turkish ports if Nicosia and the EU lift sanctions on northern Cyprus.

**Rubin: AKP Uneasy with Democracy:** Michael Rubin from the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) said in an op-ed that the majority of Turkey's ruling AK Party members were Islamists, while the majority of the Turks were not, reports "Hurriyet." Rubin said that Erdogan and his AKP were gradually distancing themselves from the principle of the supremacy of law, and that Erdogan's political performance was declining. Despite guarantees Erdogan offered regarding secularism, said Rubin, the AKP motions submitted to the parliament damaged the divide between state and religion, strengthening the power of religious groups in Turkey. According to Rubin, AKP is increasingly growing uneasy about the democratic process in Turkey. Rubin recalled a recent warning by the parliament speaker Bulent Arinc that the Constitutional Court can be annulled in Turkey, and a motion submitted to the parliament by the Erdogan government aimed at bringing early retirement for judges, making room in the judiciary for party supporters. Rubin believes that Erdogan could not bear the independence of the press and judiciary, says "Hurriyet." Rubin earlier claimed that Saudi businessmen transferred billions of USD to Turkey following September 11, and that the share of Middle East-based companies in Turkey's economy had increased by half in the first six months of 2004.

**Turkey May Have to Pay 14 Billion USD to Displaced Kurds:** The Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) has warned the government that Turkey will have to pay about 14 billion USD in compensation to 69,490 Kurds who were forced to leave their villages if the displaced Kurds apply to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), reports "Aksam." Turkey has already paid some 4 million USD to 24 applicants out of 1,500 cases pending at the ECHR. In an effort to reshape Ankara's policies with regard to east and southeast Turkey, Prime Minister Erdogan has asked the Hacettepe University in Ankara to carry out a research on migrations and displaced populations in Turkey's mainly Kurdish provinces of Bingol, Batman, Diyarbakir, Bitlis, Elazig, Mus, Hakkari, Mardin, Tunceli, Siirt, Van, Agri, Adiyaman and Sirnak. The study will assess damages in evacuated villages, and estimate the number of Kurds who had to leave their homes. The results of the project, which is to be finalized in 2006, will be submitted to the European Union, says "Aksam."

Turkey to Hand over ISAF Command: Turkish troops in Afghanistan will hand over the command of the ISAF to Italy on Thursday, papers report. The ISAF, made up of troops and support staff from 49 countries, has been deployed mainly in Kabul after the Taliban regime's fall in 2001 as part of a coalition force currently numbering around 28,000.

Blast Kills Two in Istanbul: A powerful explosion killed two people and wounded at least five others in Istanbul late on Wednesday, papers report. The blast occurred in a trash bin in the Pendik district on the Asian side of the city and severely damaged several nearby cars and houses. The cause of the blast was not clear. Istanbul police said the gas tank of a vehicle might have exploded.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; Iran

"The US is Playing with Fire"

Erdal Guven asserted in the sensational-conservative "Halka ve Olaylara Tercuman" (8/4): "The relations between Turkey and the US are facing new tensions following the PKK bureau opening in Iraq's north. The US is very well aware of Turkey's concern and sensitivity on the issue but prefers to defer to the Kurdish administration for talks. After Turkey's March 1 parliamentary decree refusing to support the Iraq war, Turkey's regional power started to decrease. Lacking Turkey's support, the US gave the control of Iraq's north to the Kurds. It is a matter of choice for the US. But the developments are very harmful to Turkey because every new PKK bureau in this area serves to strengthen the hands of the terrorist organization. Turkey has been expressing its serious concern and documenting the PKK's existence in the area. However, the US has not taken any action against the situation. America's intention is to create pressure on Turkey and it is using the Kurds for that purpose. Yet something is underestimated here. What happens if the Turkish people reach the 'enough is enough' point psychologically following the increasing number of dead Turkish soldiers' bodies coming from the Iraqi border area?"

"As if the US in Making Fun of Turkey"

Emin Pazarcı argued in the conservative-sensational "Dunden Bugune Tercuman" (8/4): "In each and every statement the Americans stress that the PKK is a terrorist organization and that they never support the PKK. The US condemns the PKK terror organization after each PKK attack. But that is all; the US struggle with the PKK stops there. Criticizing and condemning the PKK are the only two reactions to come from the US. They don't care that the PKK manages to survive very close to them and its armed militants wander around freely. The only action the US takes is to give statements saying that the PKK is a terrorist organization. The US occupation forces keep Kirkuk fully under control. The place is crowded with armed US troops. Moreover, Barzani's armed men work for them. Under these conditions, the PKK has 8 bureaus in Kirkuk. The PKK's northern Iraq branch 'Democratic Solution Party' flags are flying in these bureaus. Terrorists defend these places with armed guards. They established control points in the region so as not to allow anyone to take pictures or video films. The PKK headquarters is located in an interesting place. It is only a hundred meters away from the local police department in Kirkuk. The US Consulate stands on one side and the British consulate on the other side. They all live happily together! And after all this the US officials tell us that the PKK is a terrorist organization! As if they are making fun of us, or kidding a child! It is obvious that they are not sincere in their statements."

"Iran"

Gungor Mengi observed in the mass appeal "Vatan" (8/4): "A change in a positive direction was hoped for in Iran while the reformist leader Khatami was believed to have won the election. Yet the election result gave the country a dramatic step backward. It remains to be seen how many more years Iran has to suffer before it realizes the fact that religion can never be a political project. The scenes during Ahmedinejad's presidential ceremony were so primitive they reminded me of Ataturk's greatness once again. During the Khomeini period, Iran was trying to 'export' its regime by influencing other Muslim nations. Today, the mullah regime is only struggling to survive. And it only creates a contradiction for Turkey since we too have some pro-Iran regime figures in the higher ranks."

MCELDOWNEY